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~~SECURITY~~ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

18 January 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR/INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Distribution Abroad of the National Intelligence Digest (NID)

REFERENCES: Exchange of memoranda between O/NE and Director of Security:

- a. Memo from O/NE to D/S, 7 October 1953
- b. Memo from D/S to O/NE, 21 October 1953
- c. Memo from O/NE to D/S, 26 October 1953
- d. Memo from D/S to O/NE, 3 November 1953

DISCUSSION

1. In a memo of 7 October 1953 (reference a) O/NE asked the D/S for his recommendation on the security aspects of distributing portions of the NID to the Senior Representatives. This distribution had been requested by DD/P in a memo of 8 September 1953 and was as follows:

Mission

Digest Sections

I - World Situation  
II - Soviet Bloc  
V - Middle East and Africa  
VI - Europe

I - World Situation  
II - Soviet Bloc  
VI - Europe

I - World Situation  
II - Soviet Bloc  
III - Far East  
IV - South Asia

III-1 - Philippines

III-F - Mainland Southeast Asia

III-F - Mainland Southeast Asia

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III-F - Mainland Southeast Asia

III-J - Indonesia

II-C - European Satellites

VI - Europe (less section E, F, and M through V on countries not closely related to Austria)

25X1A

I - World Situation

II - Soviet Bloc

V - Middle East and Africa

VI - Europe

In the memorandum to D/S it was also pointed out that in March 1953, the then DD/I had authorized the distribution to General Truscott of one copy of the NID for the use of Ambassador Bohlen, then on his way to Moscow.

2. On 21 October 1953 (Reference b), the D/S, after pointing out the extremely sensitive nature of the NID, recommended that "from the standpoint of security...the NID receive no distribution overseas." The D/S suggested that in order to comply with the DD/P request"...the NID be available for examination and review within this country when SR's return for visits." Finally, the D/S recommended that [redacted] "be instructed to either return the copy of the NID to Headquarters or to destroy it by burning." 25X1A

25X1A

3. On 26 October 1953, in a second memorandum O/NE pointed out that certain posts abroad [redacted] are, as localities, more secure than the other cities (Saigon, Rangoon, etc.). It was further pointed out that [redacted] for instance, receives practically the entire NIE output and is generally considered just as secure as Headquarters. D/S was asked whether he had taken these factors into consideration. 25X1A

4. On 3 November 1954, the D/S informed O/NE that "the physical locations of the various SR's was not a deciding factor in the recommendations of this office." He reiterated his earlier recommendations.

5. I feel that the NID is of great potential value to the SR's. Furthermore, I do not feel that the security risks are great enough to bar the distribution. It is my opinion that there is little feasibility in the D/S recommendation that the SR's read the NID during their visits to this country. The SR's visit this country only once every 6-12 months and their staffs generally only once every two years.

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6. I also feel that some SR's might receive more than just those sections listed in paragraph 1.

7. If permission is granted, distribution would be made in compliance with AD/IC approved memorandum, "Dissemination of Intelligence Publications to Senior Representatives and the Staffs Overseas" dated 30 April 1953.

8. It should be noted that in the future the NID will be kept up to date on a monthly basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. It is recommended that the DD/I recommend to the DCI authorisation of the following:

- a. That the NID be distributed to the SR's as listed in paragraph 1 above;
- b. That the DD/I, in consultation with the DD/P, be authorised to make additional distribution abroad of the NID.

SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates

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